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UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

BUREAU OF RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
"U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION"  
AND REFER TO

FILE

AND DATE OF THIS LETTER

027 10960

STAT

[redacted] President  
Government Employees Health Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 463  
Washington 4, D. C.

STAT

Dear [redacted]

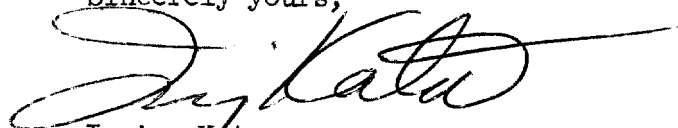
The following are digests of opinions of the General Counsel of the Civil Service Commission under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. They are for your guidance in adjudicating claims or providing service under your contract.

(1) The decision as to whether a stepchild of an employee remains the employee's stepchild after the employee's divorce from the natural parent is to be determined in accordance with applicable State law. In most States the rule is that the relationship of stepchild continues. The minority rule is that the relationship is terminated by death or divorce. If there is no authoritative State ruling, the majority rule will be followed until an appropriate State authority rules otherwise. (This does not affect the requirement that the stepchild must live with the employee in a regular parent-child relationship).

(2) A widow loses the status of "member of family" upon her remarriage. The same rule applies to widowers.

(3) In determining whether a person is a member of a family, it is his relationship to the employee or annuitant on whose enrollment title to health benefits rests which is controlling. Thus, if the deceased enrollee's surviving spouse remarries, or has a child which is not the enrollee's, the new spouse or child is not a "member of the family" within the meaning of the law.

Sincerely yours,



Irving Kator  
Staff Assistant

14 OCT 1960

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OCT 3 1960

President  
Government Employees Health Association  
Post Office Box 463  
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear

Your request of September 20, 1960 to change the method of payment for withholdings and contributions due the Federal Employees Health Benefits Fund has received careful consideration.

The Federal Employees' Health Benefits Act of 1959 precludes any arrangement other than the deposit of gross withholdings and Government contributions in the Fund. Arrangements will be made, however, to process your gross remittance for return of the 100/104 within four working days after deposit in the Fund rather than on the 10th and 25th of each month. We believe this will comply with both the spirit and letter of the law, but accomplish a more timely payment to your underwriter.

Sincerely yours,

*Andrew E. Ruddock*

Andrew E. Ruddock  
Director